



# NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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### BLM to Host Meeting on River Otter Restoration in New Mexico

Taos, NM – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be hosting a public meeting on river otter restoration in New Mexico at their office on 226 Cruz Alta Road on December 2, 2004. The meeting, cosponsored by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the New Mexico River Otter Working Group, will be held from 7-8:30 p.m.

The public will learn why there are currently no otters in New Mexico, the life history and habitat of otters and about a feasibility study for potential otter reintroduction. The last known otter in New Mexico was killed in 1953. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is studying the feasibility of reintroducing otters to the northern segment of the Rio Grande and in portions of the Gila and San Francisco rivers. “This is an exciting opportunity,” said Taos Field Office Wildlife Biologist Valerie Williams, “we’re reaching out to the public to attend this meeting and give their comments.”

Twenty states, including neighboring Arizona, Colorado and Utah, have successfully reintroduced river otters to their rightful place in the ecosystem. New Mexico has the right combination of clean air and water, and wildlife habitat has improved because of environmental regulations and restoration efforts.

Contact Valerie Williams, 505.751.4716, for more information or the Taos Field Office at 505.758.8851.

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